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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
PETERSFIELD.

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 1937.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PETERSFIELD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PETERSFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

July, 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health work of the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

This report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

The outstanding features of the year's work are, of course, the completion of the Rowlands Castle Sewage Disposal and Sewerage Schemes, the Extension of the Bramshott Sewage Disposal Works, and the progress made in the Froxfield and Hawkley Water Schemes.

These matters, and the substantial headway made in the District's Diphtheria protection work, are given in detail later in the report.

I am indebted to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspectors for their valued assistance and co-operation during the year and for their help in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. SLATER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Area of District in Acres (estimated) | ... | ... | 56,155 |
| Population (Registrar-General's estimate) | ... | ... | 15,600 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) | ... | ... | 4020 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | 98,483 |
| Sum Represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | 330 |

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is principally Residential, with areas devoted to Agriculture and Dairy Farming in the more rural parts.

Fruit growing and hop growing are two industries which are, to a large extent, carried out in the parishes of Liss, Buriton and Hawkley.

Employment in these centres is more or less seasonable, and during the picking season there is an influx of labour into the locality. During the remainder of the year the number employed in these industries is comparatively small.

There are no factories in the District apart from a number of what may be termed Factory Workshops, and workshops. A large number of these are purely family affairs which employ very little outside labour.

A number of workpeople resident in the Rural District are employed at a Factory in the Urban District of Petersfield.

Births and Deaths.

Live Births—

| | | | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | 231 | 112 | 119 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Still-births | ... | ... | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| Deaths | ... | ... | 212 | 114 | 98 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15.25 |
| Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | | | | | 36.44 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : Crude, 13.59 ; Adjusted | | | | ... | 11.41 |
| Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :— | | | | | |

| | Deaths | Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|
| No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis | — | — |
| No. 30 Other Puerperal causes | 1 | 4.04 |
| Total | 1 | 4.04 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :— | | | |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | 67.65 |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births (England and Wales) | ... | ... | 58.0 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | ... | ... | 60.6 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | 285.7 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ... | ... | 32 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | — |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | ... | ... | 3 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | ... | ... | — |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population | ... | ... | 14.90 |
| Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population | ... | ... | 12.40 |

Causes of Death, 1937.

| | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Influenza | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Other Tuberculosis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cancer | 17 | 15 | 32 |
| Diabetes | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Heart Disease | 33 | 25 | 58 |
| Aneurysm | 2 | — | 2 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 1 | — | 1 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 2 | — | 2 |
| Appendicitis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other Liver diseases | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other digestive diseases | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Nephritis | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | — | — | — |
| Congenital Causes, etc. | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Senility | — | 3 | 3 |
| Suicide | — | — | — |
| Other violence | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Other defined causes... .. | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 1 | — | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Syphilis G.P.I., etc. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other Puerperal cases | — | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 114 | 98 | 212 |

The number of deaths from all causes in 1936 was 193.

Heart Disease and Cancer still remain the commonest causes of death, and during 1937 accounted for over 42 per cent. of all deaths in the district.

There are no local conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have any prejudicial effect on health.

The health and physique of children, as judged during school medical inspections, are well maintained, and there have been extremely few cases of malnutrition noted throughout the year.

Section B.—General Provisions of Health Service for the Area.

Medical Officer of Health (also acting as Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare) :—

W. S. SLATER, M.B.Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :—

D. A. THOMAS.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector :—

P. P. CHAMINGS.

Laboratory Facilities.—The Hampshire County Council provide all facilities for the chemical and bacteriological examination of clinical material, water, milk and foodstuffs, at their laboratory at Winchester.

Ambulance Facilities.—An Ambulance is provided and kept at the Isolation Hospital for Infectious cases. For non-infectious and accident cases two Ambulances are provided and maintained by voluntary contribution at Petersfield. A Nurse is provided when needed.

The Rowlands Castle district is served by the Havant Ambulance, which is maintained by voluntary contribution.

Nursing Home.—The following Nursing Associations in the area employ District Nurses :—Petersfield, Sheet, Langrish, Liss, Greatham, Hawkey, Liphook, Buriton, Froxfield, Horndean, Rowlands Castle, Eastmeon, Privett and Steep.

Nursing in the home is adequately provided for throughout the district. The Health Visitors of the County Council carry out visiting in cases of infectious disease, and are available in emergency.

Midwives.—Midwifery is undertaken by the majority of district Nurses. There are eight Midwives practising in the area.

The Local Authority does not employ or subsidise any midwives, but there is a substantial co-ordination between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, to which the District Nursing Associations are affiliated. The County Council is the supervising Authority under the Act.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

| | <i>At</i> | <i>Day of Month</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Ante-natal Clinics | Liphook | 4th Thursday |
| | Liss | 1st Wednesday |
| | Petersfield | 1st and 3rd Tuesdays |
| | Havant | 1st & 3rd Fridays |
| Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (held at 2.30 p.m.) | Horndean | 2nd & 4th Tuesdays |
| | Petersfield | Wednesdays |
| | Liphook | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays |
| | Liss | 1st & 3rd Fridays |
| | Rowlands Castle | 3rd Friday |
| Orthopaedic Clinics (serving the district) | Havant | Fridays, 2 p.m. Surgeon's day, 1st Friday |
| | Alton | Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Surgeon's day, 3rd Wednesday |
| Tuberculosis Dispensary (serving the district) | Havant | 1st, 3rd & 4th Saturdays |
| Venereal Diseases | The treatment centre is at Portsmouth and is available for the district | |

The above Clinics are provided by the County Council, with the exception of the Petersfield Child Welfare Centre, which is controlled by a Voluntary Association. This Centre serves the villages of Buriton, Eastmeon, Sheet, Langrish, and Steep.

Hospitals (Medical, Surgical and Maternity).

The following Hospitals are used by the inhabitants of the district :—

Petersfield Hospital.
 Haslemere District Hospital.
 Havant War Memorial Hospital.
 Emsworth Cottage Hospital.
 Portsmouth Royal Hospital.
 Portsmouth Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The Petersfield Public Assistance Institution has accommodation for 54 patients : 25 men, 27 women, and 2 beds for maternity cases.

Special Hospitals.

The County Council has made arrangements for beds in Hospitals outside the area for the following medical services :—

(a) Maternity, Puerperal Fever, and Pyrexia.

Aldershot Maternity Unit, St. George's Road.
 Farnham, Hale Road Infirmary (arrangements for taking septic cases).
 Portsmouth, St. Mary's Hospital, Milton (arrangements for taking septic cases).
 Winchester, Royal Hants County Hospital (arrangements for taking septic cases).
 Normal cases, Maternity wards at Alton and Petersfield P.A.I's.

(b) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Portsmouth, Eye and Ear Hospital.
 Southampton, Free Eye Hospital.
 Winchester, Royal Hants County Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Isolation Hospital is under the control of the Petersfield Joint Hospital Board. The accommodation has proved adequate during the year for cases from the Urban and Rural Districts, though the provision of cubicles or side-wards would help considerably in the general management of this hospital; it is expected that this will be provided in the near future. An efficient steam disinfecter is available for the sterilisation of articles from infected homes.

Small Pox Hospital.

Where necessary the County Council provide arrangements for removal of cases to their Small Pox Hospital at Winechester.

Sanatoria.

Sanatoria for cases of Tuberculosis provided by the County Council at Bishopstoke and Chandlers Ford.

Infant Life Protection.

The Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act 1932, is administered by the County Council. All foster-parents and children are regularly visited by the Medical Staff or Health Visitors of the County, and suitable action taken if indicated.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Cases from Child Welfare Centres and Schools are referred to the Clinic held at Havant or Alton. Arrangements have been made at the Treloar Cripples' Hospital at Alton for those requiring hospital or operative treatment.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There is one registered Nursing Home in the District.

(1) **Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

Water Supplies.

The various water supplies throughout the district were generally satisfactory, and no difficulty was experienced in maintaining a plentiful supply of wholesome water for all purposes.

The rainfall during the early part of the year was slightly above the average, which condition materially assisted the supplies in those localities whose water is drawn from the chalk formation.

The whole of the water supplies controlled by your Council are drawn from two defined geological sources, viz., the Chalk formation and the Hythe Beds embodying the Upper Green Sand.

The water from the latter can be relied on to maintain its high bacteriological purity unless local pollution is caused in the immediate proximity when the water breaks through the surface, and pollution of this character can usually be dealt with.

Frequent analysis of water from the chalk formation proved that the degree of purity varies, and the water is definitely subject to seasonable weather changes, more especially if the collecting area is situated in or adjacent to Agricultural land used for the growth of root crops or corn growing.

The following reports are characteristic of the water obtained from the chalk and green sand formations under normal conditions :—

CHALK FORMATION.

Samples from Doscombe (Liss Supply), Upper Wooliffe Pond (Buriton Supply), Ashford Springs (Froxfield Supply), South Farm (Eastmeon and Leydene Estate Supply).

Chemical Analysis.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| Free and Saline Ammonia | ... | ... | .001 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ... | ... | .002 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C | ... | ... | 0.03 |
| Nitrogen present as | { Nitrates | ... | nil |
| | { Nitrites | ... | nil |
| Total Solids dried at 100 C.C.... | ... | ... | — |
| Dissolved Solids dried at 100 C.C. | ... | ... | 30.4 |
| Chlorine | ... | ... | 1.2 |
| Poisonous Metals | ... | ... | nil |
| Iron | ... | ... | nil |
| Alkalinity to Methyl Orange | ... | ... | 25.0 |
| Alkalinity to Phenolphalein | ... | ... | nil |
| P.H. Value | ... | ... | 7.6 |

Bacteriological Analysis.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Number of organisms per m.l. capable of growing upon Agar at 37°C in two days | ... | ... | 2.2 |
| Number of Organisms capable of growing on gelatine at 22°C in two days | ... | ... | 32.0 |
| Number of Organisms per m.l. capable of growing on Laetose Bile Salt Agar in 2 days | ... | ... | .0 |
| Smallest quantity of water giving acid and gas in Bile Salt Laetose Broth | ... | ... | none in 100 m.l. |
| Smallest quantity of water containing Baeillus Coli | ... | ... | none in 100 m.l. |

UPPER GREENSAND FORMATION.

Palmers Farm (Liss Supply).

Chemical Analysis.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----|-------|
| Free and Saline Ammonia | ... | ... | .0 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ... | ... | .0050 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C | ... | ... | .04 |
| Nitrogen present as | { Nitrates | ... | Nil |
| | { Nitrites | ... | Nil |
| Total Solids dried at 100 C.C. | ... | ... | Nil |
| Dissolved Solids dried at 100 C.C. | ... | ... | 9.6 |
| Chlorine | ... | ... | 1.25 |
| Poisonous Metals | ... | ... | Nil |
| Iron | ... | ... | Nil |
| Alkalinity to Methyl Orange | ... | ... | 0.8 |
| Alkalinity to Phenolphalein | ... | ... | Nil |
| P.H. Value | ... | ... | 6.4 |

Bacteriological Analysis.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Number of Organisms per m.l. capable of growing upon Agar at 37°C in two days | ... | ... | 3. |
| Number of Organisms capable of growing on gelatine at 22°C in two days | ... | ... | 25. |
| Number of Organisms per m.l. capable of growing upon Lactose Bile Salt Agar in 2 days | ... | ... | .0 |
| Smallest Quantity of water giving acid and gas in Bile Lactose Broth | ... | ... | none in 100 m.l. |
| Smallest quantity of water containing Baeillus Coli | ... | ... | ... |
| | ... | ... | none in 100 m.l. |

During the past year frequent samples of the water obtained from the chalk formation have been submitted for analysis, and it was observed that immediately after heavy rain, the quality of the water invariably deteriorated, and on one or two occasions was found to be hardly safe for a domestic supply.

Exhaustive inspections were made of the collecting area above the Springs, but nothing was found to account for the pollution, other than decaying vegetation, which was abundant.

The whole question of water supplies was considered by your Water Committee, with the result that your Council resolved to provide Sterilisation Plants both at the Doseombe and Ashford sources of supply.

The quality of water at Buriton is maintained, and in the case of Eastmeon, where the water is purchased in bulk from the Leydene Estate, the quality of the water was found to be satisfactory.

Of the four supplies drawn from the chalk formation, in three cases the collecting areas are thickly wooded with Beech and other trees, but these areas are in no case subject to pollution from the cultivation of the adjacent lands. In no case is the land comprising the collecting area, owned by your Council.

FROXFIELD PARISH.

It is gratifying to report that this Scheme was carried into effect during the past year, and that the service was made available during January of this year.

The water is collected from springs at Ashford, in the parish of Steep, from where it is pumped into a concrete Tower Reservoir erected at the highest point in Froxfield. O.S. 813.00.

The greater part of the parish is served from this reservoir through about nine miles of mains, the service will, no doubt, be a tremendous boon to the inhabitants, especially during the dry summer periods when rainwater storages become exhausted.

The cost of the work was approximately £12,000, and the Scheme was made possible by grants from the Exchequer, the County Council and the District Council.

LANGRISH PARISH.

The question of providing a water supply for the parish of Langrish has been very much before your Council during the latter part of the year, and much progress has been made.

The parish is chiefly Agricultural in character, and it is interesting to note it does not possess any source of water supply except one or two very small springs which practically disappear in times of drought.

Your Council resolved to proceed with the Scheme to provide the populated parts of the parish with a sufficient supply of water.

In the absence of any possible local source of supply, negotiations were opened with the Petersfield Urban District Council, whose source extends to the District boundary at Stroud, and an agreement was arrived at whereby your Council may purchase water in bulk in order to supply Langrish village.

Negotiations were also successful with the Leydene Estate, whereby water may be purchased in bulk for the Hamlet of Ramsdean.

At the end of the year sanction had been obtained from the Ministry to a Loan of £2,000 to carry out the necessary works.

The inhabitants have in the past relied on Rain water storage, a few wells which were found to be unfit for domestic

purposes, and a private ram supply which invariably ceases to function during the summer months.

The supply will undoubtedly be a great boon to the inhabitants, both for domestic and agricultural purposes. It is anticipated that the supply will be made available before the summer months.

The cost to the parish will be rather heavy, as no Exchequer Grant is available, and consequently no Grant will be available from the County Authority.

Your Council have, however, resolved to make an annual contribution towards the anticipated deficiency on the works.

STEEP PARISH.

In consequence of the Froxfield Water Scheme whereby a supply is taken from the Ashford Springs, the facilities hitherto available from a local private water supply were withdrawn, and your Council were faced with the question of providing a suitable alternate supply for a number of residences.

Fortunately, it was found possible to supply these properties from the Froxfield Works, and this your Council resolved to do.

Application was made for sanction to a Loan, which was duly granted by the Ministry, and at the end of the year the work of main laying was in progress.

HAWKLEY PARISH.

At the latter end of the year your Council resolved to proceed with a Scheme of water supply for the parish of Hawkley and Empshott, and plans were completed for the work estimated to cost approximately £4,000.

The Scheme will rank for an Exchequer Grant.

A Site for a Pumping Station had already been provisionally acquired near the prolific springs above Hawkley Mill.

It is proposed to sink a well on this land, from which the water will be lifted into a Service Reservoir on the High Ground near Uplands Farm. This reservoir will be capable of serving practically the whole of the parish.

A proper water supply is urgently needed in the parish, as practically all the wells were found to be polluted and unfit. The existing private supply to several properties in the village is both inadequate and unfit, as the water is obtained from the Old Mill Pond at Hawkley Mill, and is subject to pollution from several sources.

It is hoped to have the works completed during the summer months. When these works are completed, your Council may reasonably review with satisfaction the considerable work carried out in the district during the past 12 years in providing water supplies for the various parishes, when no less than twelve of the thirteen parishes comprising the district have a proper piped supply. Your Council are to be congratulated on their achievement and enterprise.

In past years it has been a difficult problem, in view of the very low rateable value of some of the parishes, when the provision of a public water supply would be an impossible burden.

I am also pleased to record that at the close of the year you considered a Scheme for the Pooling of all Special Expenses in connection with Public Health services.

The proposal for a complete Pooling was unacceptable to the majority of the Council, but a scheme for the partial pooling of Special Expenses was later approved under which all special charges in excess of a 2/- Rate is charged to the Common Fund, and some parishes will immediately benefit thereby.

All the water supplies within the district may be regarded as being generally satisfactory in regard to quality, but, as previously stated in my Report, Sterilising Plants will be installed on two of the supplies as a precautionary measure.

Samples from your Council's own Undertakings are frequently submitted for Bacteriological and Chemical analysis, and any change in the character of the water is thereby immediately observed, and the necessary action taken.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Good progress was made during the year in the provision of new Disposal Works, and in the improvement and extension of existing works.

In the parish of Rowlands Castle the construction of the Sewers and Disposal Works was completed, and the whole service was made available in July last.

Sewers are now provided in all the populated parts of the parish except the village of Finehdean.

The Works comprise Detritus Tanks, Upward Flow Sedimentation Tanks, Humus Tanks, and a Sewage Lifting Station, which is provided with electrically-operated Pumping Plant in duplicate.

The capacity of the works is more than adequate for the present needs of the parish, and provision is made for future extension as and when necessary.

Owing to the very flat gradients available in the lower part of the area, all sewage discharged at the Works has to be lifted for treatment.

These works were carried out at a cost of approximately £22,000, and normally would be a very heavy burden to the parish but for the substantial annual contribution to be made by your Council from the Common Fund.

Application was made to the County Council for some contribution towards the heavy Loan charges, but without success.

Before the end of the year a large number of properties had been connected to the sewers, and it is hoped that in the very near future, all owners of the properties situated within reasonable distance of the sewers will have taken full advantage of this much-needed facility provided as the result of considerable effort and expense.

In the parish of Bramshott, important extensions were carried out to the existing Disposal Works.

The original works were carried out in 1933-4, when, in consequence of the then prevailing economic conditions, certain parts of the Scheme had to be abandoned.

During the winter of 1936, the Works were found to be working up to their full capacity, and a deterioration in the purity of the effluent was observed.

Your Council resolved to proceed with the work of constructing one additional sedimentation tank, and one percolating filter of similar capacities to the existing.

Application was made for sanction to a loan of £1,500 for the purpose of carrying out the work, which sanction was made by the Minister of Health without the formality of a Public Inquiry.

The work was carried out by direct labour under the supervision of your own staff, and a considerable saving was effected as compared with the cost of the original Scheme.

With the consent of the Ministry, the unexpended balance of the loan has been utilised in the provision of additional Sludge Beds at the Works.

Your Council has also had under consideration the question of extending the sewer to serve the village of Bramshott, and at the end of the year application was made to the Ministry for sanction to a loan of £3,490 in order to carry out the work.

The work will include a 7in. sewer in London Road, and a 6in. branch sewer in Church Road, to serve that developed area as far as the Bramshott Boys' School.

The first portion of the 7in. sewer will be elevated on piers to carry the sewer across the valley of the River Wey, while the Church Road sewer will have to be of a maximum depth of 20 feet.

The cost apportioned per dwelling would, at first view, appear to be rather excessive, but your Council had due regard to the building development in this locality, and to the fact that complaints were frequently received of nuisance caused by overflowing cesspools.

I am of the opinion that the policy of extending sewers is a good one, if by so doing the evils associated with cesspools can be eliminated or materially reduced, and it is beyond all doubt that the cost of maintaining a cesspool-emptying service is far in excess of loan charges on wisely-spent capital.

It must also be appreciated that the Disposal Works at Standford are now capable of dealing with a considerably increased volume of sewage without any added expenditure.

In view of the proposed development on the Gunns Farm Estate, your Council has resolved to carry out an extension of the sewers to serve this estate.

The charge to the parish in respect of this extension will

be very nominal, as the estate owners will contribute 66 per cent. of the cost.

LISS DISPOSAL WORKS.

Your Council have had under consideration the unsatisfactory condition at these works.

The Filters have deteriorated considerably during the past year as the result of having been overworked during the whole of the winter.

Owing to a lower rainfall, the amount of infiltration at the end of the year was less than that of the previous winter, but the discharge at the works was considerably in excess of their capacity, with the result that the filters were constantly in operation, although some of the discharge was passed through the Storm Water Tanks.

Your Engineer has recommended to the Council that one new Filter of a larger capacity than the existing, and one additional sedimentation tank be constructed, and also the provision of additional beds for the treatment of Sludge, and it is hoped that it will be possible to carry out these proposals before the next winter arrives.

The matter of infiltration of ground water into the sewer will be difficult to deal with, as so many of the sewers are laid in waterlogged soil, and the infiltration is more or less general in these sewers.

The additional units recommended at the Disposal Works are estimated to cost approximately £2,000.

HORNDEAN.

In this parish, extension to the sewer was carried out in Five Heads Road to serve the numerous properties in that area at a cost of over £600.

This parish is now well served with sewers, and no further immediate expenditure is anticipated, unless sewers will be necessary to serve new Building Estates.

The circumstances throughout the district regarding sewage disposal may be regarded generally as being extremely satisfactory.

Five of the more populated parishes are now provided with Modern Sewage disposal facilities.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All rivers and streams which have their source within, or run through, the district may be regarded as now being exceptionally free of pollution.

The provision of Sewage Disposal Schemes in the several parishes during the past few years has contributed largely to the present healthy condition of the several rivers.

The River Meon, which has its source in the parish of Eastmeon, and which runs alongside the main village street, is still to some extent polluted by sewage matter. This village, having a piped water supply, has no occasion to use the river water for any domestic purposes. Certain domestic drains in the village have for many years discharged foul water into the stream, and it is regrettable that no action can reasonably be taken to stop the pollution until alternate sewer facilities can be provided. The pollution, however, is not increasing, and the river bed is periodically cleaned out by your Council.

Reference should be made, however, to the Rowlands Castle area, where a Sewerage Disposal Scheme was put into operation in July last. The majority of properties have now been connected to the sewers with a marked improvement in the condition of the several water courses in the locality. Previously these ditches and water courses directly received the sewerage from a large number of properties, and the conditions, especially during the hot summer weather, were extremely unsatisfactory, a serious menace to health, and the breeding beds of millions of flies and mosquitoes. It is anticipated that all properties will have been connected to sewers before the return of warm weather.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the parish of Rowlands Castle approximately 100 Earth Closets and Middens were converted into Water Closets during the year under review.

Of the above number, no less than 18 were of a very undesirable type of midden, several being definitely inaccessible for emptying purposes.

At The Green there existed some middens which were situated on ground well above, but adjacent to, the dwelling houses, and during extremely wet seasons, the ground became more or less saturated by filth.

I am glad to report that such unhealthy conditions no longer exist, and the work of conversion in the parish is proceeding satisfactorily.

In other parts of the district where sewer facilities are available, the conversion work is practically 100 per cent. complete, and no Earth Closets remain within the Statutory distance from a sewer.

The total number of conversions during the year is as follows :—

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Middens converted to Water Closets | ... | 20 |
| Earth Closets converted to Water Closets | | 80 |
| Middens converted to Earth Closets | ... | Nil |

(4) **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The work of cesspool emptying was considerably reduced during the year as the result of the Rowlands Castle Sewerage Scheme being brought into use. In view of the unsatisfactory conditions which prevailed prior to the sewers being made available, the majority of householders were only too glad to dispense for all time with cesspool drainage, which at the best is only a very poor substitute for modern drainage, more especially when, in winter months, the ground is full of water.

It is anticipated that within a few more months all cesspools in those areas where sewer facilities are available, will be dispensed with.

The service of cesspool emptying, although most essential where this system of drainage exists, is undoubtedly the most expensive of all the several Public Health services, and in the case of Rowlands Castle, the provision of a sewage disposal scheme has actually resulted in a reduction in the Special Expenses Rate.

In the parishes of Bramshott and Liss the service of Cesspool emptying is still available to those properties in the outlying parts of the parishes where there are no sewer facilities, and when there is no prospect of such being provided.

The work of Earth Closet Scavenging has also been considerably reduced during the last few months, and in the very near future will be discontinued at Rowlands Castle.

In view of the projected sewer extension in Bramshott parish, the work of cesspool and Earth Closet Scavenging will also be reduced in that area in the near future.

From a Public Health point of view the provision of sewer facilities in populated areas is undoubtedly a wise step, but there is a reasonable limit to parochial charges, beyond which it is both unwise and unfair to go, and it must be appreciated

that it would be a financial impossibility to provide these facilities to all properties in a Rural parish without enormous financial help from some source other than the local exchequer.

House refuse collection is now made in eleven of the thirteen parishes comprising the district.

During the past year the service was extended, and a better service is now given.

For these parishes your Council resolved to purchase an additional Seavenging Lorry at a cost of £600. This vehicle is stationed at Horndean and deals with the Seavenging in the Southern part of the district, and also some parishes in the Northern part.

A weekly service of collection is made in the populated centres and a fortnightly collection in the more rural parishes.

I am very pleased to record that your district is now exceedingly well served by Seavenging services, and it appears that the services now given are much appreciated.

(5) **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**

The sanitary inspection of the district has been thoroughly and conscientiously carried out.

The district being chiefly Residential and Agricultural in character, there is no special feature to report on, and the Inspection work carried out has been in accordance with the requirements of the various Acts.

The following is a summary of the Inspections carried out during year :—

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Complaints received ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Visits in consequence ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Infectious diseases reported ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Visits and disinfections ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Bakehouses : Inspections made ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Shops : Inspections made ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. : Inspections made ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Schools : Inspections made ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Drainage : Visits and Tests made ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Visits to Slaughterhouses, etc. ... | ... | ... | ... | 718 |
| Visits and Inspections made under The Milk and Dairies Order ... | ... | ... | ... | 684 |
| Milk Samples taken for analysis ... | ... | ... | ... | 107 |
| Fruit and Hop Pickers' Accommodation : | | | | |
| Visits made ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Inspections made under Housing and Public Health Acts ... | ... | ... | ... | 244 |
| Number of re-inspections ... | ... | ... | ... | 91 |

(6) **Shops.**

It is found that the requirements of the Shops Act 1934 are generally being complied with, and no formal action has been found necessary during the year.

Defects noted were readily made good after a verbal request.

There are no large shopping centres within the district, and the vast majority of shops are managed by the owners and families, and with very little outside assistance.

(7) **Smoke Abatement.**

No action was found necessary under this enactment during the year, and it is interesting to note that only one factory within the district now uses coal fuel for power purposes.

(8) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Public Swimming Pools within the district.

There are, however, Swimming Pools at two large educational centres, viz., Bedales, in the parish of Steep, and Highfield, in the parish of Bramshott.

(9) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

I am pleased to report that not a single case of bug infestation was reported during the year.

The district is practically immune from this pest, and the only cases on record in the past were definitely proved to have been caused by the importation of the bug from other centres.

(10) **Schools.**

The sanitary circumstances at the several schools continued to be generally satisfactory, and some important improvements have been carried out.

A water service having been made available in the parish of Greatham, I am pleased to report that the School is now served from the Company's main.

A service is also now available to the Froxfield and Privett Schools, and it is understood that these school premises will be supplied from your mains at an early date.

When the latter works are completed, all Schools within your district, with the exception of one, will have an abundant supply of wholesome water supplied from your Council's mains, or from those of the two Statutory Water Companies.

The one exception above referred to is the Hawkley School, which school has available a piped supply, but the quality of the water cannot be regarded as satisfactory. As it has now been resolved to proceed with a Water Scheme for this parish, I have every hope that matters will be improved in this district before the end of another year.

The water supplies of the two private educational centres within this district are obtained from public services.

Since the Rowlands Castle Sewerage System has been made available, I am glad to report that the drainage at the Redhill Public Elementary School has been connected to the service.

I am glad to be able to record that the drainage from five schools within your district is now connected to public sewers.

The general sanitary circumstances at the 16 elementary schools within your district may be regarded as being satisfactory. In the case of the two private centres, conditions may be regarded as extremely satisfactory, all sanitary accommodation being of modern design and construction, the drainage in one case being discharged into a public sewer, while that at the other centre is discharged into private Disposal Works.

Section D.—Housing.

The Housing progress during the past year has, unfortunately, fallen short of our anticipations, the number of new houses completed shows a reduction of approximately 20 per cent. on the figure of the preceding year.

This substantial drop in the number of new houses erected is undoubtedly accounted for by the considerable increase in the cost of both material and labour.

The Building development within your district is chiefly of a speculative character, and the increased cost must necessarily have an adverse effect on the sale of new houses. There has, nevertheless, been a steady progress in house building, as the records show that 80 houses were completed during the year.

Of this number, approximately 90 per cent. are of a Rateable Value of under £25, and may be regarded as being more or less suitable for occupation by persons of the Working Class.

The demand for houses of a reasonable rental is still very evident, and in view of the upward tendency of the cost of material, etc., the prospect of a cheap cottage appears more remote.

During the past few years some effort has been made by private enterprise to build houses for working people in this district, but it is regrettable to learn that the effort has not met with any degree of success.

These houses are to-day occupied by but few working people, and the rents are certainly in excess of that which the ordinary working man can reasonably pay.

Private enterprise will continue to cater for the Client who will either purchase his house, or who can afford to pay an economic rental. It is to be hoped that in the near future the Government will frame some new legislation whereby assistance may be obtained in order to provide a good, healthy cottage for the lower-paid workers, whose claim to a decent home is equally justified.

Your Council has resolved to proceed with the erection of 15 houses with the object of relieving some of the outstanding overcrowded cases, and to replace some of the houses condemned as unfit.

Sites are now available at Finchdean and at Liss, and efforts are being made to obtain a site for six or eight houses at Bramshott.

Of the 21 cases of overcrowding discovered as the result of the 1936 Survey, it appears that in eight cases the overcrowding has already been remedied, the occupants in most cases having moved into other houses, and in two cases the overcrowded houses have ceased to be occupied by more than one family.

It is hoped during the coming year to make a partial re-survey of houses in order to ascertain the number of houses which have become overcrowded since the general Survey of 1936.

Of the 33 houses scheduled as unfit in 1934, and which figure was later increased to 44, I am pleased to report that all but six houses have been satisfactorily dealt with, and there is every prospect of a further three being reconditioned in the near future.

It is hoped that your project for the erection of a further 15 houses will be pressed forward with the view to having the houses completed during the coming year.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :— | | | | |
| 1 | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Housing and Public Health Acts | | 244 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | 335 |
| 2 | (a) | Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | | 154 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | 180 |
| 3 | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation | | Nil |
| 4 | | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action | ... | 82 |
| 2. Action under Statutory Power during the year :— | | | | |
| | (a) | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | | |
| | (b) | Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | Nil |
| | (2) | Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | |
| | (a) | By owners | } | Nil |
| | (a) | By Local Authority in default of owners | | |
| | (b) | Proceedings under Public Health Acts :— | | |
| | (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | | Nil |
| | (2) | Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :— | | |
| | (a) | By owners | } | Nil |
| | (b) | In default of owners by Local Authority | | |
| | (c) | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | | |
| | (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | Nil |
| | (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | 2 |

Overcrowding.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of dwelling houses overerowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | 72 |
| New cases of overcrowding reported | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Number of overerowding cases relieved | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of persons concerned | ... | ... | ... | 64 |
| Cases where houses have again become over- crowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overerowding | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Your district being largely Agricultural in character, milk production still remains the staple industry, in addition to a fair amount of Fruit and Hop growing.

The Milk production industry is a very important and extensive one, and in consequence a considerable amount of attention is devoted by your officers in order to ensure that, as far as reasonably possible, the milk is produced and handled under hygienic conditions. A vast improvement has occurred during the past few years in the manner in which milk is being produced, and it is but fair to record that the vast majority of Producers do their best to co-operate in carrying out the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order. It is also worthy of note that a large number of producers appreciate the advantages obtained by the installation and use of sterilising plants.

The number of applications made for licences in order to become accredited producers have not been so numerous as in the previous year, the total number of accredited producers within your district now being 36.

It is also observed that the use of mechanical milkers is on the increase, and it is worthy of note that generally the samples taken from these farms show a better result than those where the cows are hand-milked.

Your Council wisely resolved that periodical samples be taken for the purpose of Biological and Bacteriological analysis, and the information obtained from the analyst's report has been helpful in dealing with the producers who are inclined to carelessness in the handling of milk generally.

During the year 107 samples were taken, of this number 55 were for Biological analysis, 35 for Bacteriological analysis, while the remaining 17 were samples of milk supplied to school children locally.

All registered premises within the district were periodically inspected, various structural improvements were effected, and premises were generally maintained in a highly satisfactory state.

Nutrition.

Particular attention is paid to cases of sub-normal nutrition discovered at child welfare centres of School medical inspections. Advice on diet is given to parents, a home visit is paid to ascertain circumstances, and regular weighing and measuring of such mal-nourished children follow to note progress.

Free milk is available at Schools and at Child Welfare Centres for cases of malnutrition where circumstances indicate it.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.

The number of animals slaughtered and carcasses inspected shows a substantial increase on that of the previous year, and constitutes a new record.

The vast majority of the slaughtering was again done in the two wholesale slaughterhouses within the district.

As will be seen in the tabulated list, a considerable amount of meat was again condemned as unfit for the food of man. The major portion of the condemned meat is derived from the slaughter of cows, which cows were undoubtedly weeded out from dairy herds for various reasons. As in former years, these cattle are gathered from a very wide area, and are by no means particular to this locality. The question of the disposal of condemned meat has, to a large extent, been met by the controlled sale of this meat as cat and dog meat. This procedure was approved by your Council, and has resulted not only in a large quantity of meat becoming of some commercial value to the owners, but also dispenses with the difficult problem of the disposal of unfit meat.

The owners in all cases co-operate in a very satisfactory manner, and we are quite satisfied that no unfit meat is

disposed of within the district or sent to other centres for human consumption.

All slaughterhouse owners have co-operated in the work of meat inspection by the giving of all necessary notices, etc., and the various premises were at all times kept in a satisfactory state.

The work of meat inspection has again involved considerable time and labour, but your Council is assured that the work has been carried out at all times in a diligent and thorough manner.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered, and the quantity of meat condemned as unfit.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

| | Cattle. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-------|
| Number Inspected | 2683 | 104 | 517 | 1032 |
| Number Condemned | 672 | 2 | 31 | 6 |
| (All diseases except Tuberculosis). Whole Carcases condemned ... | 104 | 2 | 31 | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 49 | — | — | 2 |
| (Tuberculosis only). Whole Carcases condemned ... | 568 | — | — | 4 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 126 | — | — | 2 |

15% being cattle other than Cows.

In the Table the term "Cattle," of course, includes cows, as from the records available it is not possible to separate the items, but it can safely be assumed that the term "Cows" would account for quite 85 per cent. of the cattle slaughtered.

In future reports the number of cattle slaughtered will be given under the above separate headings.

For the purposes of meat inspection no less than 718 separate visits were made to the several slaughtering places.

Fruit Growing.

The picking season was satisfactory in every respect from a Public Health point of view.

All accommodation used was at all times found to be satisfactory.

The sanitary accommodation was found to be adequate and well maintained, and an abundant supply of wholesome water was at all times available to the occupants at convenient points.

There were no illnesses, infectious or otherwise, reported.

Hop Growing.

The picking season, which was of a short duration, was particularly favourable to the pickers.

In anticipation of the new regulations which came into force during the year, considerable improvements were carried out to the pickers' accommodation by the owners concerned, which improvements were greatly appreciated by the numerous pickers.

The season was also marked by a visit of inspection by Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, who was warmly received both by the owners and the pickers, and who expressed complete satisfaction with all he saw during his tour of inspection.

The health of the pickers was eminently satisfactory, and not a single case of illness was recorded at any of the centres.

As in previous years, the water supplies and sanitary arrangements at the centres were found to be adequate and satisfactory.

Frequent visits were made to the centres by your Officers during the season.

Bakehouses, etc.

All bakehouses and shops, where food in any form is prepared, were periodically visited.

All premises were found to be kept clean and generally satisfactory, and no formal action was found necessary.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Work under the Council's Scheme, whereby protective treatment is made available for all children of the district between the ages of 1 and 14 years, took up a considerable amount of my time during the year, but thanks to the excellent co-operation of the County Medical Officer and the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools, no fewer than 961 received full protective treatment during the year 1937.

This figure of 961, along with the 79 children dealt with in 1936, brings the total of immunised children at the end of December, 1937, to 1,040. This can be considered very satisfactory, especially as the scheme has only been in operation for 14 months.

The details of the work done and the age-groups of the children protected are set out in the following table :—

| Group. | One injection only. | | Two Injections. | | Three Injections. | | Material used |
|--------------------|---------------------|----|-----------------|-----|-------------------|----|---------------------------------------------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | T.A.F. |
| 1-year old ... | 1 | 5 | 21 | 16 | — | — | Two 1. c.c doses at intervals of one month. |
| 2-5 inclusive ... | 14 | 11 | 80 | 82 | — | — | |
| 6-14 inclusive ... | 20 | 16 | 391 | 371 | — | — | |

I would like to refer again to the wisdom shown by the parents of these 1,040 children in seeking protection against Diphtheria for their children. Although the Rural area has now been free from diphtheria for 2 years, they have wisely protected their families against a disease which, sooner or later, is bound to return to the district.

No other changes in the Authority's efforts in the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases fall to be reported. The arrangements for disinfection, hospital treatment, examination of contacts, provisions of anti-toxins, etc., remain as reported in the 1935 Annual Report.

Age Groups of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease.
(Other than Tuberculosis).

| Disease. | 0—1 | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | 15—20 | 20—35 | 35—45 | 45—65 | Total | Remov'd to Hosp'l | Deaths |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|--------|
| Searlet Fever ... | — | 1 | 1 | — | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 18 | 16 | Nil |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 2 | — | 8 | 1 | Nil |
| Puerperal Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Opthalmia neonatorum | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | 4 | 2 | — |

Cancer.—The deaths from malignant disease numbered 32 in comparison with 25 in the previous year.

The nearest National Regional Radium Centre is at Southampton (Royal South Hants Hospital).

Prevention of Blindness.—No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 1 ... | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 5 ... | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| 15 ... | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| 25 ... | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | |
| 35 ... | 1 | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 45 ... | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 55 ... | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| 65 and upwards | | | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTALS | 5 | 6 | 1 | — | 6 | 4 | 1 | — |

Five cases died from the disease, the existence of which had not previously been notified.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

The total number of cases of tuberculosis on the register on December 31st, 1937, was 71.

